

Abstract 2: Puget Sound Georgia Basin International Airshed Strategy

Peter Schwarzhoff, Bruce Thomson, Environment Canada*

Keywords: air, airshed, ozone, PM

Both Canada and the United States are currently implementing new air quality standards and guidelines. Thus, it was critical to characterize the nature of air pollution within the shared airshed at this time. The goal of the study was to establish a common understanding of the current status of and trends in air quality in the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound airshed. Its specific objectives were to:

- Determine the significance of the transboundary transport of air pollution within the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound airshed;
- Identify and describe the key factors - natural and anthropogenic - affecting air quality in the region;
- Establish a current benchmark against which changes in air quality over the next 10 years can be measured;
- Identify the key gaps in our scientific understanding of air quality as it relates to particulate matter, ozone and visibility in the Basin, including gaps, if any, in monitoring, inventory and modeling approaches and systems;
- Describe the anticipated consequences for air quality of specific air quality management actions; and
- Provide the basis for the development of public education and communications materials designed to enhance citizen understanding of air quality in the region.